

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of February 26, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held February 26, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Karen Daas, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Emily Bonner, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, Samer Dessouky, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Edgar Ghossoub, Vaidya Gundlupet, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Jill Hernandez, Harry Jarrett, Richard Lewis, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Debbie Menger, Joycelyn Moody, Michael Moyer, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Chris Packham, Clyde Phelix, Lloyd Potter, Libby Rowe, Dan Sass, Howard Smith, Rebekah Smith, Rob Tillyer, Christopher Wickham

Absent: David Akopian, Armando Arciniega, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Mark Giles, Suat Gunhan (excused), Turgay Korkmaz, Marian Martinello (excused), Patricia McGee (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, Antonio Petrov (excused), Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubramanian, Elaine Sanders, Teresa Sellers (excused), Alistair Welchman (excused), Bennie Wilson (excused), John Zhang

Guests: William Duffy (for Alistair Welchman), John Frederick, Michael Karcher (for Patricia McGee), Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 32

Total members absent: 21

II. Approval of the January 29, 2015 meeting minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas said the HOP 2.23 Faculty Compensation for Additional Duties and Salary Adjustments is currently under review. Although the deadline for feedback initially passed, Dr. Hard will still be able to accept comments for about one more week.

The following policies have moved on to legal affairs:

- 2.20 Peer Observation of Teaching
- 2.38 Academic Program Abandonment
- 8.19 Server Administrator
- 8.20 Information Resources User Policy
- 8.21 Application Administrator

The following policies were recently approved and posted:

- 2.10 Faculty Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure
- 2.21 Academic Program Assessment
- 8.16 Information Security Administrator
- 8.17 Information Security Incident Response

She said the Founding Faculty Gallery Unveiling has been postponed until the fall semester. Dr. Daas said that feedback on HOP 10.03 Organized Research Units is due to Dr. Hard by March 30th. The EAB student success coalition pilot will be launched in September. The system will show the last 10 years of data and will be especially useful for those in undergraduate advising. Dr. Daas said that the EARN taskforce is forming to discuss what the “flags” should say and the criteria for them. She said that you don’t have to be a faculty senator to serve on the taskforce. The committee is currently working out the remaining system glitches. She said that the President would like to meet with the senate to discuss the new strategic plan for 2020. There will be a Faculty Senate Blueprint 2020 Meeting on Thursday, March 19th from 2-3:30pm just before the scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. Room information for the Blueprint meeting is TBD. Dr. Daas encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming faculty mixers (especially at the Downtown campus) on the following dates:

Downtown – Wednesday, April 8th 5-7pm on the Fourth Floor Terrace (via FS 4.452)
Main campus – Thursday, May 7th 5-7pm in the Faculty Center

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez said that she would be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates tomorrow. She most recently was invited to a conference at Texas Tech where they are working to set up a Faculty Senate and reorganize their governance processes. She also informed the senate that the new Chancellor will be visiting UTSA on April 10th. Dr. Hernandez gave a few SYSFAC updates:

- The Board of Regents has declined to make the suggested changes to its meetings to allow SYSFAC representation
- The top issues with the Regents and Legislature are currently TRBs, Hazelwood, and in-state tuition for undocumented students
- Other ongoing issues include concealed handguns on campus, community colleges awarding BA degrees, and governance issues
- The Legislature changed the 2/3 rule

Dr. Hernandez also gave an update on some new items as well as some budget highlights. A full, detailed report is on Rowdyspace.

- C. Provost's Report – John Frederick
- Dr. Frederick said that the President is interested in feedback from the Faculty Senate regarding the university's strategic plan. He said that the President is interested in hearing how the Tier One vision can be advanced based on current opportunities and challenges. He said the President will take the senate's feedback into consideration and prioritize current resources accordingly.
- Dr. Frederick said that there has been some confusion regarding the process for Graduate admissions. He said that admission decisions do not have to wait until April 15th to be made; they can be made on a rolling basis. There was some discussion about the availability of funding in relation to the timing of admission decisions. He said he would speak with the Deans and the incoming Graduate School Dean to clarify the process.
- He discussed the current rule that non-degree seeking summer students have to meet the same admission standards as degree-seeking students in order to take a summer course at UTSA. He questioned if this was a necessary requirement, considering the fact that summer courses are usually not full, and there may be potential for an increase in revenue. After some supporting comments, Dr. Frederick said that he would further investigate this matter.
- Dr. Frederick said that there has seemed to be some confusion over the Gold Star Initiative brought up in the President's State of the University address. The Gold Star Initiative is a special investment the university is making to add additional tenure-track faculty, not specific individuals that are "Gold Star designated". He emphasized that the effort is more resource-focused, not individually-focused. He said that the new Vice President for Business Affairs will be announced on the UTSA news webpage next week.
- D. Consent Calendar – Elaine Sanders
- The Faculty Senate briefly discussed the request for a MS in Business and the proposal for a certificate in Operations and Supply Chain Management. For more information on these proposals, contact Dr. Sanders.
- E. NEP Committee – Emily Bonner
- Dr. Bonner presented some changes to the senate's bylaws. The proposed changes include:
- Article VII Committees, 1. i. Allowing the Chair of the senate and "one member of the executive committee, elected by the executive committee" to serve on the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. This would allow for greater SYSFAC representation.
 - Article VII Committees, 4. a. Changing the makeup of the executive committee (currently one representative from each college) to the chair of each standing committee.
 - Combining the Academic Freedom and Tenure committee and the Evaluations, Rewards, and Merit committee.
 - Combining the Academic Policy and Requirements committee and the Curriculum committee.

Since 30 days is needed for review before a vote is taken, these items will be voted on at the April 9th senate meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Forum

Dr. Moody volunteered to compile topics that the senate may be interested in discussing with the President at the upcoming Blueprint 2020 meeting.

There was a reminder that a PeopleSoft survey had been distributed by Mr. Jacobs, a current masters student, to collect data for research purposes. Everyone who received the survey is urged to participate.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:03 pm.